AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A method for inhibiting neural cell death, comprising inhibiting the degradation by HtrA2 (high temperature requirement protein A2) of at least one of SHC3 (src homology 2 domain containing transforming protein C3), ATF6 (activating transcription factor 6), ~~and~~ or CREBL1 (cAMP responsive element binding protein-like 1).

2. (Currently amended): A method for inhibiting neural cell death of claim 1, comprising using one or more compounds that inhibit the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of SHC3, ATF6 ~~and~~ or CREBL1.

3. (Currently amended): The method for inhibiting neural cell death according to claim 1 ~~or~~ ~~2~~, in which the neural cell death is neural cell death attributable to brain ischemia.

4. (Currently amended): A method for preventing, treating or controlling brain ischemia or neurodegenerative disease, comprising inhibiting the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of SHC3, ATF6 ~~and~~ or CREBL1.

5. (Currently amended): The ~~preventing, treating, or controlling~~ method according to claim 4, in which the neurodegenerative disease is Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, polyglutamine disease, prion disease, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

6. (Currently amended): A method of identifying ~~a compound~~ an agent of claim 8, that inhibits the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of SHC3, ATF6 ~~and~~ or CREBL1, comprising contacting HtrA2 and at least one of SHC3, ATF6 ~~and~~ or CREBL1 with a compound under conditions that allow the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of SHC3, ATF6 ~~and~~ or CREBL1;

introducing a system using a signal and a marker capable of detecting at least one of SHC3, ATF6 ~~and~~ or CREBL1; detecting the presence or absence and/or change of the signal and the marker; and determining whether the compound inhibits the degradation of at least one of SHC3, ATF6 ~~and~~ or CREBL1.

7. (Currently amended): A method of identifying ~~a compound~~ an agent of claim 8 that inhibits the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of SHC3, ATF6 ~~and~~ or CREBL1, comprising contacting HtrA2 and at least one of SHC3, ATF6 ~~and~~ or CREBL1 with a compound under conditions that allow the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of SHC3, ATF6 ~~and~~ or CREBL1; detecting the presence or absence of at least one of SHC3, ATF6 ~~and~~ or CREBL1, and/or measuring the change of the amount thereof; or detecting the presence or absence of the degradation product of at least one of SHC3, ATF6 ~~and~~ or CREBL1, and/or measuring the change of the amount thereof ; and determining whether the compound inhibits the degradation of at least one of SHC3, ATF6 and CREBL1.

8. (Currently amended): An agent for inhibiting neural cell death or for preventing, treating or controlling brain ischemia or neurodegenerative disease, comprising one or more compounds that inhibit the degradation by HtrA2 of at least one of SHC3, ATF6 ~~and~~ or CREBL1.

9. (Original): The agent for inhibiting neural cell death according to claim 8, wherein the neural cell death is neural cell death attributable to brain ischemia.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended): The agent for preventing, treating or controlling neurodegenerative disease according to claim ~~10~~ 8, wherein the neurodegenerative disease is Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, polyglutamine disease, prion disease, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

12. (Original): A reagent kit, comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of

HtrA2, a polynucleotide encoding HtrA2, and a vector containing the polynucleotide encoding HtrA2; and at least one selected from the group consisting of SHC3, ATF6, CREBL1, a polynucleotide encoding at least one of SHC3, ATF6 and CREBL1, and a vector containing the polynucleotide encoding at least one of SHC3, ATF6 and CREBL1.

13. (New): The method for inhibiting neural cell death according to claim 2, in which the neural cell death is neural cell death attributable to brain ischemia.